

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. Claims 5-10, 13-18, and 22-33 stand withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim 21 was noted as containing an informality. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0030760 A1 to Ohta. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohta in view of U.S. patent 6,882,438 to Kanaya. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0057773 A1 to Fujise et al. (herein "Fujise").

Addressing first the noted objection to claim 21, original claim 21 inadvertently did not recite all the limitations intended. Thereby, claim 21 is amended by the present response.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ohta, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

First, with respect to independent claim 1, independent claim 1 is amended by the present response to clarify that the sender registering unit stores the sender identification which is "input by an operator from an operation unit of the image processing device". That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification for example at page 18, lines 5-7. Further, such a feature is believed to distinguish over the applied art to Ohta.

Ohta discloses an internet facsimile gateway apparatus 20a having a G3 facsimile communications controller 21 that utilizes a registration table 21c in which the calling facsimile number and the called facsimile number are stored, see for example Figures 1 and 2 in Ohta. However, in Ohta the calling facsimile number is notified from the PSTN to the internet facsimile gateway apparatus 20a through the communications service provided by a communications service provider. In Ohta the notification to the calling facsimile number is

performed through the communication service. That is clear from Ohta at page 3, prenumbered paragraph [0028].

Independent claim 1 recites a different structure than in Ohta.

In independent claim 1 as currently written, first a “sender identifier *of the image file*” (emphasis added) is stored. Ohta does not indicate any operation of storing a sender identifier of the image file. Further, in independent claim 1 as currently written the sender identifier indicates a person or group who sends the image file to the one of the external stations, which is “input by an operator from an operation unit of the image processing device”. Such a feature also distinguishes over Ohta. As noted above in Ohta an automatic operation of the communication service provider provides a notification of a calling facsimile number. Ohta does not disclose or suggest any input of a sender identifier of an image file being provided by an operator.

In such ways, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the teachings in Ohta.

With respect to independent claim 2, applicants respectfully submit Ohta fails to teach or suggest:

an image subject registering unit storing a subject identifier of the image file, the subject identifier indicating one of a plurality of image subject indications to indicate names of images in the image file being transmitted[,]

as required in independent claim 2.

First, as noted above Ohta does not disclose storing a subject identifier of an image file. Ohta merely discloses providing a notification of a calling facsimile number.

Further, Ohta does not disclose that the subject identifier indicates one of a plurality of image subject indications to indicate names of images in the image file being transmitted.

The number of fax machines as in Ohta is unrelated to a name of an image in an image file being transmitted.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit independent claim 2 also distinguishes over the teachings in Ohta.

With respect to independent claim 11, independent 11 is believed to be similarly allowable over the teachings in Ohta for reasons similarly discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Specifically, independent claim 11 indicates that one of a plurality of document identifiers is selected from a document list “in accordance with key-in information that is *input by an operator*” (emphasis added). As noted, Ohta merely discloses that a communications service provider automatically provides the notification of a calling facsimile number. Such an operation in Ohta is not directed to an operator being able to input key-in information as required in independent claim 11. Thus, independent claim 11 is also believed to distinguish over the teachings in Ohta.

With respect to independent claim 19, independent claim 19 is believed to also distinguish over Ohta as first Ohta does not disclose or suggest “storing a destination identifier of the image file”, as discussed above. Further, Ohta does not indicate that transmitted with an image file is a “relevant personnel information item”, and such that the “relevant personnel information item” is “correlated to respective personnel identifiers”. A fax number of a facsimile machine is not a personnel identifier, and thus does not meet the limitations of independent claim 19.

In such ways, independent claim 19 is believed to also distinguish over the teachings in Ohta.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohta in view of Kanaya, that rejection is also traversed by the present response.

Kanaya discloses at column 5, lines 63-67 that a scanner 5 reads an image of a document and a predetermined line resolution in the printer 6 produces an image output in accordance with a line resolution.

However, applicants respectfully submit neither Ohta nor Kanaya teach or suggest “*storing* a scan condition of the image file, the scan condition indicating a resolution of a scanner used when scanning a document to obtain the image file” (emphasis added), and further “transmitting the image file together with a stored scan condition”, as recited in independent claim 3. The disclosure in Ohta at column 5, lines 63-67 merely discloses reading the document at a predetermined line resolution and producing a document with the line resolution. No scanning condition of a document is stored in Kanaya.

In such ways, independent claim 3 is believed to clearly distinguish over the combination of teachings of Ohta in view of Kanaya.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Fujise, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note claim 4 is amended by the present response to further recite that the storing of the at least one of the sender identifier of the image file, subject identifier of the image file, and a scanning condition of the image file “are selected by an operator from a sender list, an image subject list, and a scan condition list displayed on the display unit of the image processing device respectively”. That subject matter is fully supported for example in Figures 4 and 7-9 in the present specification. Such features are believed to clearly distinguish over Fujise. That is, Fujise does not disclose any operation of allowing an operator to select sender identifier from a sender list, a subject identifier from an image subject list, and a scan condition from a scan condition list.

In such ways, amended independent claim 4 is believed to clearly distinguish over the teachings in Fujise.

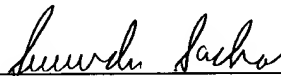
Further, with respect to independent claim 21, applicants note amended independent claim 21 now recites features such as discussed above directed to “storing a destination identifier of an image file”, transmitting an image file “together with a relevant personnel information item”, and having an input personnel identifier that can be input by an operator. Such features are believed to also distinguish over the applied art for similar reasons as already discussed above.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written clearly distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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